REMARKS

Reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested in view of the following remarks. Prior to entry of this response, Claims 1-26 were pending in the application, of which Claims 1, 11, and 14 are independent. In the Office Action dated March 21, 2005, Claims 1-26 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a). Following this response, Claims 1-26 remain in this application. Applicants hereby address the Examiner's rejections in turn.

I.   Rejection of Claims 1-13 and 20-26 Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

In the Office Action dated March 21, 2005, the Examiner rejected Claims 1-2, 4, 11-13, and 20 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,157,934 ("Khan") in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,729,745 ("Reina") further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,826,253 ("Bredenberg"). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Claim 1 is patentably distinguishable over the cited art for at least the reason that it recites, for example, "notifying an asynchronous data server that said spreadsheet application program should be notified." Independent Claim 11 includes a similar recitation.

In contrast, Khan at least does not teach or suggest the aforementioned recitation. Furthermore, and as stated by the Examiner, Reina does not explicitly disclose notifying the server to notify a spreadsheet when data changes. (See Office Action, page 4, lines 21-22.) Moreover, Applicants respectfully submit that

Bredenberg does not overcome *Khan's* and *Reina's* deficiencies. For example, *Bredenberg* merely discloses that a server manages its resources as necessary to notify the client of a change in one of the records. (*See* abstract.) Like *Khan* and *Reina*, *Bredenberg* at least does not teach or suggest notifying an asynchronous data server that an application program should be notified, much less notifying an asynchronous data server that a spreadsheet application program should be notified.

In sum, combining *Khan, Reina,* and *Bredenberg* would not have led to the claimed invention because *Khan, Reina,* and *Bredenberg* either individually or in any reasonable combination, at least do not disclose or suggest "notifying an asynchronous data server that said spreadsheet application program should be notified", as recited by Claim 1. Independent Claim 11 includes a similar recitation. Accordingly, independent Claims 1 and 11 each patentably distinguish the present invention over the cited art, and Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of this rejection of Claims 1 and 11.

Dependent Claims 2-10, 12-13, and 20-26 are also allowable at least for the reasons described above regarding independent Claims 1 and 11, and by virtue of their respective dependencies upon independent Claims 1 and 11. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of this rejection of dependent Claims 2-10, 12-13, and 20-26.

II.   Rejection of Claims 14-19 Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected Claims 14-15 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Khan* in view of *Reina*. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Claim 14 is patentably distinguishable over the cited art for at least the reason that it recites, for example, "maintain an interface for use by a spreadsheet application program through which a notification may be received indicating that an asynchronous data server has an asynchronous data value available."

In contrast, and as stated by the Examiner, *Khan* does not explicitly disclose that a spreadsheet application requests an asynchronous data server to transmit an asynchronous data value to the spreadsheet application. (*See* Office Action, page 14, lines 10-11.) Furthermore, Applicants respectfully submit that *Reina* does not overcome *Khan's* deficiencies. *Reina* merely discloses a data transfer mechanism. (*See* col. 7, line 32.) For example, when a client establishes a connection with a server, the client notifies the server whether it wants data to be transferred when data changes. (*See* col. 7, lines 34-36.) Like *Khan*, *Reina* at least does not teach or suggest transmitting asynchronous data to an application program, much less a spread sheet program.

Combining *Khan* with *Reina* would not have led to the claimed invention because *Khan* and *Reina*, either individually or in any reasonable combination, at least do not disclose or suggest "maintain an interface for use by a spreadsheet application program through which a notification may be received indicating that

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an asynchronous data server has an asynchronous data value available", as recited by Claim 14. Accordingly, independent Claim 14 patentably distinguishes the present invention over the cited art, and Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of this rejection of Claim 14.

Dependent Claims 15-19 are also allowable at least for the reasons described above regarding independent Claim 14, and by virtue of their dependency upon independent Claim 14. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of this rejection of dependent Claims 15-19.

III. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicants respectfully request the reconsideration and reexamination of this application and the timely allowance of the pending claims. The preceding arguments are based only on the arguments in the Office Action, and therefore do not address patentable aspects of the invention that were not addressed by the Examiner in the Office Action. The claims may include other elements that are not shown, taught, or suggested by the cited art. Accordingly, the preceding argument in favor of patentability is advanced without prejudice to other bases of patentability. Furthermore, the Office Action contains a number of statements reflecting characterizations of the related art and the claims. Regardless of whether any such statement is identified herein, Applicants decline to automatically subscribe to any statement or characterization in the Office Action.
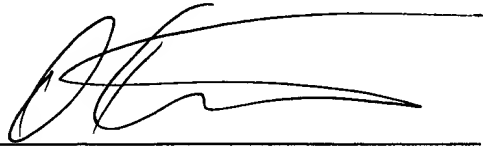
Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to our Deposit Account No. 13-2725.

Respectfully submitted,

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